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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7028  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE 0202  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SKOPJE 000113

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MK](#)  
SUBJECT: MACEDONIA SUPPORTS KOSOVO RECOGNITION, BUT WILL  
NOT BE IN THE FIRST WAVE

REF: A. SECSTATE 13716

[1](#)B. SKOPJE 31

Classified By: POLOFF NEISULER FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

SUMMARY

[1](#)1. (C) Macedonia's position on Kosovo recognition remains unchanged. As reported in ref B and previous, Macedonia will "not be among the first, nor among the last" to recognize a newly independent Kosovo. The competing historical and economic ties both with Kosovo and Serbia have not prevented the Macedonians from being supportive of Kosovo's independence. However, border demarcation between Kosovo and Macedonia, and a potential economic blockade from Serbia have made them wary of getting more specific on the timing of their official recognition.

[1](#)2. (C) Macedonia continues to work closely with Kosovo to facilitate a huge anticipated increase in border traffic after CDI (it is already starting). On such practical matters, Macedonia is extending itself to make Kosovo's transition successful.  
MILOVANOVIC